

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

-----020020 010836Z /10

R 010726Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1817

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: MNLF BARRED FROM MINDANAO URBAN AREAS

1. FOLLOWING TWO HANDGRENADE INCIDENTS WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, THE PHILIPPINE SOUTHERN COMMAND HAS BARRED MEMBERS OF THE MNLF FROM ENTERING CITIES OR TOWNS IN MINDANAO'S THIRTEEN AUTONOMOUS PROVINCES WITHOUT PRIOR CLEARANCE FROM THE LOCAL MILITARY FORCES. MNLF MEMBERS CAUGHT IN URBAN AREAS WITHOUT PERMISSION WILL BE ARRESTED AS SUSPECTED TERRORISTS.

2. IN EXPLAINING NEW ORDER, SOUTHERN COMMAND CHIEF REAR ADMIRAL ESPALDON CLAIMED HE WAS FORCED TO LIMIT FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR MNLF FOLLOWING TWO INCIDENTS IN WHICH GRENADES WERE THROWN INTO CROWDED THEATERS -- IN ZAMBOANGA CITY JUNE 20 AND DIPOLOG JUNE 26 -- KILLING FIVE PEOPLE AND INFURING 32. ESPALDON BLAMED MNLF'S INABILITY TO CONTROL ITS FORCES AND CHARGED NUR MISUARI FAVORED FIOLENCE BECAUSE OF HIS COMMUNIST SYMPATHIES.

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3. COMMENT: THOUGH CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN HOLDING REASONABLY WELL, THE PEACE WHICH PREVAILS IN MINDANAO IS AT BEST FRAGILE. THIS LATEST ACTION BY THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY INTRODUCES A NEW AND PROBLEMATIC FACTOR INTO THE CEASEFIRE EQUATION. THE FREEDOM OF THE MNLF TO MOVE WITHOUT HINDERANCE INTO URBAN AREAS HAS PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED POSITIVELY TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE

BY PROVIDING R&R SITES FOR MNLF SOLDIERS. ONE LOCAL
OBSERVER (BISHOP PHILIP SMITH OF JOLO) RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFFS
THAT FOLLOWING THE DECLARATION OF THE CEASEFIRE, JOLO WAS
INVADED ONCE AGAIN BY LARGE NUMBERS OF MNLF SOLDIERS WHO
HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE NEAREST MOVIE THEATER. CONFING
MNLF TO RURAL AREAS WILL PROBABLY ONLY RAISE TENSIONS AMONG
THE MNLF AND INCREASE THE ODDS THAT ANGER MIGHT REPLACE
REASON AT THE CEASEFIRE LINE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1985569
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: MNLF BARRED FROM MINDANAO URBAN AREAS
TAGS: PINS, RP, MNLF
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fce47f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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